

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-4, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended to clarify the invention. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the specification and in particular at, inter alia, page 18, lines 19-25, of the original specification and regions 13a and 13b shown in Figure 2A. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ikarashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,115,329). Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Ikarashi. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The present invention is directed to a conductive liquid crystal device characterized by a planar liquid crystalline organic layer having plural regions which are in the same plane but have different electroconductivities. By virtue of this structure, the resultant conductive liquid crystal device produces luminescence exhibiting different luminances at an identical drive voltage (see, e.g., page 5, line 23, through page 6, line 2; Examples 1-3 on pages 16-25, of the original specification).

Ikarashi, as noted by the Examiner, discloses an electroluminescence device including a liquid crystal layer 7 disposed between a pair of electrodes. However, Ikarashi's liquid crystal layer 7 is very different from the presently claimed planar liquid crystalline organic layer. More particularly, the liquid crystal layer 7 of Ikarashi consists of a single homogeneous region as apparent from Figure 1 and column 3, lines 39-43, therein. In addition, the liquid crystal layer 7 of Ikarashi is not subjected to any treatment which would result in the provision of plural regions having different electroconductivities.


While the Examiner points out that Ikarashi describes the application of a varied electric field to the liquid crystal layer 7, such an application does not change the homogeneous liquid crystal layer 7 into a layer having regions of different electroconductivities; therefore, the Examiner's reliance on this process for the teaching of plural regions of the liquid crystalline organic layer having different electroconductivities is misplaced.

In sum, it is clear that Ikarashi fails to anticipate or render obvious the present invention. Ikarashi fails to disclose or suggest the key feature of the present invention, namely a planar liquid crystalline organic layer having plural regions which have different electroconductivities. The electroluminescence device of Ikarashi is simply different from the conductive liquid crystal device of the present invention; the differences therebetween are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention is novel and nonobvious in view of Ikarashi and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections premised upon it.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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